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Mors et Vita is a criticism of the two famous works: *Le Sens de la Mort*, by Paul Bourget, and *Le Voyage du Centurion*, by Ernest Psichari, works that are representative of the so-called "*Mouvement Catholique Moderniste*," now taking place in France and which includes numerous French authors like Bourget, Barrès, Bazin, a movement which is so brilliantly illustrated by the "ultimate sacrifice" of young French intellectuals, among them Péguy and Psichari, the latter a grandson of the great apostate Renan, both of these young men converted to the Roman Catholic Church and killed on the Field of Honor.

The criticism of Loisy is extremely keen. The author transports into the apologetical field what through the writings of Psichari and Bourget thousands of young Frenchmen feel intuitively and instinctively.

Loisy tries to demonstrate that nothing very strong binds the renewal of the French spirit to the Catholic dogmas. He declares, however, that a great number of young men, not less ignorant of doctrinal and theological Catholicism than Ernest Psichari, adhere to the church as a result of the horror they feel for the moral emptiness of our non-religious society before the war. Renan, he says, had above all experienced the church intellectually; Ernest Psichari and men like him have experienced the century as "impressionists" and through the feelings and realizing its inadequacy, he turned to the church. "The question," continues Loisy, "would be to know if the traditional center of our moral life would not tend to displace itself, and if a "nation of souls" may not be in the making, not against the old religious confessions, but outside of them and especially of the Catholic church."

M. P.

Gaspard, By RENÉ BENJAMIN. Paris, Fayard, 1915.

Among the numerous vivid books that have been written by soldiers from their own experiences during the war, *Gaspard* may be counted as one of the best.

Gaspard is a product of Paris. He joined his regiment in the beginning of the war, and among hardships and misfortunes, while engaged in battles, his spirit always joyful, his clever, lively, ingenuous repartées, so characteristic of the Parisian, keep the spirit of his comrades always high. He is intelligent and equal to any emergency, he derives advantage from anything and makes the best of bad situations. He is patriotic and understands why he is fighting. He is the real type of the French soldier.

The reading of Mr. Benjamin's book would be very useful for those who are interested in psychology of soldiers.

M. P.

L'Avenir de l'Intelligence. By CHARLES MAURRAS. 2nd ed. Paris, Nouvelle Libr. Nationale, 1917.

According to Maurras, intelligence, which is a predominant function of the brain and which expresses itself by writing is likely to lose its rôle and dignity. It is in danger of falling more and more under material influences; gold will master it, enslave it and domesticate it. One of the causes of this situation is that Romanticism is developing in the direction of the most unrestrained and narrow individualism. Maurras suggests some political remedies, among them the rule established by the genius of Auguste Comte. This gives Maurras an op-

portunity to make a very interesting study of the founder of positivism and of his philosophy.

M. P.

Les Diverses Familles Spirituelles de la France. Paris. EMILE PAUL, 1917. 312 p.

The new book of Mr. Barrès, the eminent academician and President of the French Ligue des Patriotes, contains a series of articles which were published last year in the French newspaper l'Echo de Paris. It describes the different spiritual groups which go to make up the French people—the Catholics, the Protestants, the Jews, the Socialists, the Traditionalists. He portrays the changes that have taken place among them under the influence of the war. It is a eulogy of the Union Sacrée, that arose in August, 1914, out of the deep patriotism of the French people, after the battle of the Marne, the Union Sacrée was very near being wrecked by the too great confidence and optimism that prevailed in France. It has renewed its strength in the last three years, the present union is stronger, deeper, firmer, of a better quality than the first one. "It consists not," says Barrès, "in disavowing our beliefs, or in relegating them to a limbo, like a useless article. It consists of everything that strengthens our confidence, it consists of those deeply rooted beliefs that bind men to the eternal verities. Each of the spiritual groups has maintained its own rights and ideals but in their purest form and as a result of this has not interfered with the full cooperation of all the groups."

Mr. Barrès has built up his theme on the best materials, with written testimonies of fighters, letters of soldiers, many of which he reproduces. He has collected them from all parts of France.

The book is perhaps the most stirring and valuable work on the new spirit of France, that has been published since the beginning of the war.

M. P.

L'ILLUSTRATION. Paris. An illustrated weekly.

L'Illustration is a French illustrated weekly. All its pages are devoted since the beginning of the war to war articles. Every number brings an editorial by Mr. Henry Lavedan, the well known French academician, on a topic of immediate interest. For instance, in the numbers of June he describes the effects upon the people of Paris of the big gun bombardment. After this follow studies on the military, political, moral situation of France and her allies.

All the articles are illustrated by well known French artists and the mechanical work of reproduction cannot be surpassed.

A complete file of this valuable paper covering the period of the war will be a veritable mine for the psychologist and it is to be hoped it will find its way eventually into all psychological laboratories devoted to research.

M. P.

Ma Piece and Le Tube 1233. By PAUL LINTIER. Paris, Plon, 1916-1917. 300 p.

Among the numerous French and foreign books published since the beginning of the war, describing the life of the soldiers at the front, there are two, written by a soldier himself, at the front, sometimes between bombardments, at other times inside a dug-out, by the light of a candle, which are really masterpieces, not only for the literary point of view but also for the scientific point, because they are the real expression of truth. They are an important contribution to the psychological study of the soldier in time of war.